

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 1, 2005, claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Interview with the Examiner

Applicant's attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on March 31, 2006. Also, the Interview Summary accurately reflects the substance of the interview.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,271,063 to d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc ("d'Arc"), U.S. Patent No. 3,702,901 to Cherry ("Cherry"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,983,087 to Milne et al. ("Milne")

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over d'Arc, Cherry, and Milne. Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the references.

For example, claim 1 states that, when a balancing point is moved from a prescribed position, a total volume at the prescribed position is unchanged. On the other hand, none of the references suggest such feature, and during the personal interview, the Examiner stated that the references do not appear to teach this feature.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason. Furthermore, since claims 2, 4, and 5 depend upon claim 1, Applicant submits that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Newly added claims

Applicant has added new claims 17-31. Since claims 17 and 26 contain features that are analogous to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicant submits that they are patentable for analogous reasons. Also, since claims 18-25 and 27-31 depend upon claim 17 or 26, they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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